

## Amendments to the Claims

### **1-8. (Cancelled)**

**9. (New)** A composition activating mast cells and basophils upon binding to a human own IgE antibody and having an atopic dermatitis inducing activity, which is obtained from a human secretion through the following steps of:

filtering a human secretion, removing insoluble matters and collecting the filtrate;

mixing the filtrate with a ConA-affinity carrier and collecting the supernatant;  
and

separating a component having an histamine-releasing activity from the supernatant by column chromatography.

**10. (New)** The composition of claim 9, wherein the column chromatography is anion exchange column chromatography and/or reverse phase column chromatography.

**11. (New)** An antibody prepared by using the composition of claim 9 as an antigen, and specifically binding to the composition of claim 9.

**12. (New)** An antibody prepared by using the composition of claim 10 as an antigen, and specifically binding to the composition of claim 10.

**13. (New)** A method of diagnosing atopic dermatitis, which comprises testing whether or not an IgE antibody binding to the composition of claim 9 exists in the serum of a subject and determining that the subject whose serum contains the IgE antibody is a patient with atopic dermatitis or a high-risk individual for atopic dermatitis.

**14. (New)** A method of diagnosing atopic dermatitis, which comprises testing whether or not an IgE antibody binding to the composition of claim 10 exists in the serum of a subject and determining that the subject whose serum contains the IgE antibody is a patient with atopic dermatitis or a high-risk individual for atopic dermatitis.

**15. (New)** A method of diagnosing atopic dermatitis, which comprises adding the composition of claim 9 to a leukocyte fraction collected from the blood of a subject, and determining that the subject is a patient with atopic dermatitis or a high-risk individual for atopic dermatitis from the degree of histamine release in the leukocyte fraction.

**16. (New)** A method of diagnosing atopic dermatitis, which comprises adding the composition of claim 10 to a leukocyte fraction collected from the blood of a subject, and determining that the subject is a patient with atopic dermatitis or a high-risk individual for atopic dermatitis from the degree of histamine release in the leukocyte fraction.

**17. (New)** A method of diagnosing atopic dermatitis, which comprises testing whether or not a substance binding to an antibody of claim 11 exists in a biological sample of a subject, and determining that the subject whose sample contains the substance is a patient with atopic dermatitis or a high-risk individual for atopic dermatitis.

**18. (New)** A reagent for determining a high-risk individual for atopic dermatitis, which comprises a patch test material having the composition of claim 9.

**19. (New)** A reagent for determining a high-risk individual for atopic dermatitis, which comprises a patch test material having the composition of claim 10.

**20. (New)** A drug for desensitization therapy of atopic dermatitis, which contains the composition of claim 9 as an active ingredient.

**21. (New)** A drug for desensitization therapy of atopic dermatitis, which contains the composition of claim 10 as an active ingredient.

**22. (New)** A kit for diagnosing atopic dermatitis, which contains the composition of claim 9 as an active ingredient.

**23. (New)** A kit for diagnosing atopic dermatitis, which contains the composition of claim 10 as an active ingredient.

**24. (New)** A method of preparing a composition, which is derived from a human secretion, activates mast cells and basophils upon binding to a human own IgE antibody, and has an atopic dermatitis inducing activity, comprising the following steps of:

filtering a human secretion, removing insoluble matters and collecting the filtrate;

mixing the filtrate with a ConA-affinity carrier and collecting the supernatant;  
and

separating a component having an histamine-releasing activity from the supernatant by column chromatography.